



General Assembly

February Session, 2006

Raised Bill No. 5487

LCO No. 1742

01742_____TRA

Referred to Committee on Transportation

Introduced by:
(TRA)

AN ACT REDUCING EXCESSIVE NOISE FROM MOTORCYCLES.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 14-80 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

3 (a) Each motor vehicle and the devices on such vehicle shall be
4 operated, equipped, constructed and adjusted to prevent unnecessary
5 or unusual noise.

6 (b) Each motor vehicle operated by an internal combustion engine
7 shall be equipped, except as hereinafter provided, with a muffler or
8 mufflers designed to prevent excessive, unusual or unnecessary
9 exhaust noise. The muffler or mufflers shall be maintained by the
10 owner in good working order and shall be in use whenever the motor
11 vehicle is operated. No person, including a motor vehicle dealer or
12 repairer or a motorcycle dealer, shall install, and no person shall use,
13 on a motor vehicle, a muffler or mufflers lacking interior baffle plates
14 or other effective muffling devices, a gutted muffler, a muffler cutout
15 or a straight exhaust except when the motor vehicle is operated in a
16 race, contest or demonstration of speed or skill as a public exhibition

17 pursuant to subsection (a) of section 14-164a, as amended, or any
18 mechanical device which will amplify the noise emitted by the vehicle.
19 No person, including a motor vehicle dealer or repairer or a
20 motorcycle dealer, shall remove all or part of any muffler on a motor
21 vehicle except to repair or replace the muffler or part for the more
22 effective prevention of noise. No person shall use on the exhaust
23 system or tail pipe of a motor vehicle any extension or device which
24 will cause excessive or unusual noise.

25 (c) The engine of every motor vehicle shall be equipped and
26 adjusted to prevent excessive fumes or exhaust smoke.

27 (d) All pipes carrying exhaust gases from the motor shall be
28 constructed of, and maintained with, leak-proof metal. Exhaust pipes
29 shall be directed from the muffler or mufflers toward the rear of the
30 vehicle and shall be approximately parallel with the longitudinal axis
31 of the vehicle and approximately parallel to the surface of the
32 roadway, or shall be directed from the muffler upward to a location
33 above the cab or body of the vehicle so that fumes, gases and smoke
34 are directed away from the occupants of the vehicle. Exhaust pipes on
35 a passenger vehicle shall extend to the extreme rear end of the vehicle's
36 body, not including the bumper and its attachments to the body, or
37 shall be attached to the vehicle in such a way that the exhaust pipes
38 direct the exhaust gases to either side of the vehicle ensuring that fresh
39 ambient air is located under the vehicle at all times. The Commissioner
40 of Motor Vehicles may adopt regulations in accordance with the
41 provisions of chapter 54 to establish safety standards for passenger
42 vehicles equipped with exhaust pipes located in front of the rear axle.

43 (e) Every motor vehicle shall, when operated on a highway, be
44 equipped with a horn in good working order and capable of emitting
45 sound audible under normal conditions from a distance of not less
46 than two hundred feet, but no horn or other warning device shall emit
47 an unreasonably loud or harsh sound or a whistle.

48 (f) No vehicle shall be equipped with, nor shall any person use on a

49 vehicle, any siren, whistle or bell as a warning signal device, except as
50 otherwise permitted by this section. Any motor vehicle may be
51 equipped with a theft alarm signal device which is so arranged that it
52 cannot be used by the driver as an ordinary warning signal. Any
53 authorized emergency vehicle may be equipped with a siren, whistle
54 or bell, capable of emitting sound audible under normal conditions
55 from a distance of not less than five hundred feet and of a type
56 approved by the Department of Motor Vehicles. Such signal shall not
57 be used unless the vehicle is operated in response to an emergency call
58 or in the immediate pursuit of an actual or suspected violator of the
59 law, in which event the driver of the vehicle shall sound the signal
60 when reasonably necessary to warn pedestrians and other drivers of
61 the approach of the vehicle.

62 (g) The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles, after notice and
63 opportunity for hearing in accordance with chapter 54, shall suspend
64 the registration of any motorcycle that is the subject of (1) two or more
65 written warnings issued under the provisions of subsection (c) of
66 section 14-103 of the 2006 supplement to the general statutes within a
67 period of six months for a violation of subsection (b) of this section, or
68 (2) two or more violations of subsection (b) of this section within a
69 period of six months.

70 ~~[(g)]~~ (h) Any person who violates any provision of this section shall
71 be fined one hundred fifty dollars for each offense.

72 Sec. 2. Section 14-80a of the general statutes is repealed and the
73 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

74 (a) No person shall operate a vehicle or combination of vehicles, nor
75 shall the owner of any vehicle allow the vehicle to be operated, at any
76 time or under any condition of grade, surface, speed, load,
77 acceleration, deceleration or weather condition in such a manner as to
78 exceed the decibel levels established under subsection (c) of this
79 section. This subsection applies to the total noise generated by a
80 vehicle and shall not be construed as limiting or precluding the

81 enforcement of any other motor vehicle noise provisions of this title.

82 (b) No person shall sell or offer for sale a new vehicle which
83 produces a maximum decibel level which exceeds the decibel levels
84 established under subsection (c) of this section.

85 (c) The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall, with the advice of the
86 Commissioner of Environmental Protection, adopt regulations in
87 accordance with the provisions of chapter 54 establishing the
88 maximum decibel levels permissible for motor vehicles, which shall
89 not exceed the maximum decibel levels established for motor vehicles
90 by federal law or regulation. The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles
91 shall establish the procedure for checking maximum decibel levels.
92 The decibel level shall be measured fifty feet from the centerline of the
93 vehicle. The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles may provide for
94 measuring at distances closer than fifty feet from the centerline of the
95 vehicle. In such a case, the measuring devices shall be calibrated to
96 provide for measurements equivalent to the noise limit established by
97 this section measured at fifty feet.

98 (d) The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles, after notice and
99 opportunity for hearing in accordance with chapter 54, shall suspend
100 the registration of any motorcycle that is the subject of two or more
101 violations of subsection (a) of this section within a period of six
102 months.

103 ~~[(d)]~~ (e) Violation of the provisions of this section shall be an
104 infraction.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	14-80
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	14-80a

Statement of Purpose:

To reduce excessive noise from motorcycles that are the subject of two or more written warnings or violations within a period of six months by suspending the registrations of such motorcycles.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]